MEMORANDUM FOR SMC/MC   18 APR 2001
                ESC/MC

FROM: HQ AFMC/DO
       4375 Chidlaw Rd, Rm S143
       Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5006

SUBJECT: Responsible Test Organization (RTO) Designation Policy

1. To assist you in making an RTO recommendation for the Ground Multi-Band Terminal program,
I would like to describe my philosophy and policies for designating RTOs. Whenever possible, I
designate test organizations, such as test wings at AFMC test centers, as RTOs. These dedicated test
organizations are experts in the test and evaluation processes outlined in AFI 99-101 and other
instructions, and ensure that tests are performed safely and in a technically sound manner in order to
provide warfighters with proven safe, mission suitable systems. Additionally, I designate test
organizations because they are independent from the Single Manager's organization. This allows the
RTO the freedom to act as an independent advisor to the Single Manager for the tough decisions that
usually arise during Developmental Test and Evaluation (DT&E). I realize that there may be rare
exceptions to this policy, as when the program office must be RTO because the system is so
specialized that there are no other alternatives for the RTO.

2. I also want to clarify that the RTO's primary responsibility is for oversight of DT&E. They do not
have to conduct all testing to exercise this oversight. For example, the RTO can oversee testing
conducted by other organizations and still perform the RTO duties. These other organizations could
be contractors, as permitted through the Major Range and Test Facility Base waiver process in
AFI 99-101, paragraph 2.23.

3. Hopefully, this helps you in your RTO recommendation decision process. My staff and I are
available to assist you. My action officer for the RTO designation process is Lt Col Robert Eslinger,
HQ AFMC/DOX, DSN 986-0084 or e-mail robert.eslinger@wpafb.af.mil.

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